

make quality programming more profitable than ever, and halt the current downward spiral in which the networks are too often competing with each other in a sleaze contest to capture their lucrative slice of a particular demographic pie.

Today, the V in V-chip stands for victory, and the struggle to reclaim our public airwaves from the sleaze which too often dominates what is broadcast will continue. Ratings alone do not solve the problem. You can rate garbage, but you haven't changed the fact that it is still garbage. As my friend BILL BENNETT said yesterday in a news conference we held with Senator NUNN and leaders from the Christian, Jewish, and Moslem organizations, a sign in front of a polluted lake does let you know that it's polluted, but it doesn't mean you can fish or swim in it. We need to clean up the polluted lake that is American television today, and take out the garbage.

There are some television programs that no rating will make acceptable. Last week, Sally Jessy Raphael put a 12-year-old girl on her stage—a girl who had been sexually victimized repeatedly by older men—and verbally abused her in front of a nationwide audience. That is a form of child abuse in itself, and it's totally unacceptable, rating or no rating.

That's the big, next task for the television industry—to use its incredible creative genius to bring us more programs that will elevate, not denigrate, our culture and our children.

There is probably no other force around that dominates the lives of young people in America today as thoroughly as television. Millions of children spend more time in front of a TV than they do talking with their parents, praying in church, or listening to their teachers.

The TV industry must do more to clean up their programs. Get rid of the violence that is still too pervasive, and damaging to impressionable young minds. Get rid of the gratuitous sex scenes, the common use of vulgarity, and the heavy sexual innuendo that dominates so many programs. You don't need to get down in the gutter to attract a big audience and make a profit. You do need to begin to draw a line, and say to yourselves and your producers, writers and actors—we won't go beyond that line, even if we can make more money, because it is wrong and it is bad for our country and our children.

One way the television networks can demonstrate they mean business when it comes to helping America and its parents is to adopt a code of conduct to govern their programming. They used to have active standards and practices divisions, but those divisions have been sub-standard and out-of-practice in recent years, and need to be bolstered and empowered by a strongly worded code of conduct that sets decent standards.

Another way the networks can show better corporate citizenship is to give

us back the family hour. Give America's parents at least one hour at night when they can sit on the couch and watch TV with their children without fear of having their values insulted. Many parents, including my wife and I, have simply given up on network TV at night, choosing a family-oriented cable channel instead, or just reading or relaxing together. But tens of millions of families have no access to cable, and have little choice about what they can watch.

There is no law, no business imperative, no reason not to give the American people decent, quality programs from 8 pm to 9 pm every night. To paraphrase the line in *Field of Dreams*, air them, and we will come. We will watch good TV.

Mr. President, I am not a child of the information age. I am a child of the television age. I was raised watching TV, and I have watched TV with three generations of my children. I love TV, but I am not happy with what TV has become.

It is not too late to reverse course. The degradation of America's culture can be stopped. We can't go back to the 1950's, but we can go back to a time of decency and quality television.

We celebrate today the news that the television industry will develop a rating system for its programs and support the V-chip that will give parents more power to control over what their children see on TV. And we encourage the television executives to see today as a beginning, not an end. A beginning to a new partnership with America's families.

"A rising tide raises all ships," President Kennedy said, in speaking of economic growth. The same can be said of the tide of cultural decency. American television can uplift our people, or it can degrade them. It can inspire, or it can dispirit. Today, we hope the tide has begun to shift. Will the rising tide be sustained? All we can say now, is, "stay tuned."•

#### TRIBUTE TO ORDER OF DEMOLAY

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to commend a group whose members make important daily contributions to many communities across the country, including the town of Bristol, NH.

The International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay has spent the past 77 years supporting their communities by assisting young men between the ages of 12 and 21 become better sons, citizens, and leaders. The Order of DeMolay urges these young men to lead lives full of filial love, reverence, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanliness, and patriotism. This organization should be commended for its unwavering commitment and contributions to this Nation, and for participating in the molding of today's young men for a better world of peace and brotherhood.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate acknowledge the Order of DeMolay's

meritorious service toward our families, communities, States, and Nation and I invite the citizens of the United States to recognize this organization's significant efforts in community harmony.●

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished majority leader, I shall now address the wrapup. I wish to inform the Chair, as well as all Senators, that each of these items has been cleared by the Democratic leader.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1996

Mr. WARNER. First, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 5, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 927, and that there be 2½ hours of debate on the conference report to be equally divided between the Senator from Georgia, Mr. COVERDELL, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, or their designees, and that following the debate the conference report be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that a vote occur on adoption of the conference report at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, and that paragraph 4 of rule XII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to ask for the yeas and nays at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon, Tuesday, March 5, the Senate resume the D.C. appropriations conference report, and there be 30 minutes equally divided in the usual form for debate on the cloture motion filed earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m., to 2:15 p.m., in order for the weekly party caucuses to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the 2:15 p.m., vote on Tuesday on the adoption of the Cuba conference report, the Senate proceed to the cloture vote with respect to the D.C. appropriations conference report, and that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.